

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/701,454

Examiner

K. Feggins

Applicant(s)

NISHIMURA, TOMOYOSHI

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/6/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-5 is the inclusion of the limitations of a color thermal printer that includes a correction device for setting a correction coefficient, said correction device including at least one of a type dependency correction unit, a humidity dependency correction unit, and a sheet number dependency correction unit, said type correction unit setting a type dependency correction coefficient based on a type of said recording material, said humidity correction unit settling a humidity dependency correction coefficient based on the humidity, and said sheet number correction unit setting a sheet number dependency correction coefficient based on accumulative sheet number, said correction coefficient being based on said type correction coefficient, said humidity correction coefficient, and said sheet number correction coefficients; a determination device for calculating a printing load per said one line based on said image data, said pressing force of said thermal head, and said correction coefficient; and a motor controller for controlling the rotation speed of said feeding motor according to the printing load per said one line. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 6-9 is the inclusion of the limitations of a color thermal printer that includes a correction device for setting a correction coefficient, said correction device including at least one of a type dependency correction unit, a humidity dependency correction unit, and a sheet number dependency correction

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unit, said type correction unit setting a type dependency correction coefficient based on a type of said recording material, said humidity dependency correction unit setting a humidity dependency correction coefficient based on the humidity, and said sheet number correction unit setting a sheet number dependency correction coefficient based on accumulative sheet number, said correction coefficient being based on said type correction coefficient, said humidity correction coefficient, and said sheet number correction coefficients; a determination device for calculating a printing load per said one line based on said image data, said pressing force of said thermal head, and said correction coefficient; and a printing controller for changing said one line printing process according to said printing load of said one line. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ng (US 6088050) disclose a non-impact recording apparatus operable under variable recording conditions. Komiya et al. (US 6283570 B1) disclose a printer with correction data for number of tones which is fewer than number of tones that image data have. Sawano (US 6384895 B1) discloses an image correction method including a correction process of image data having increased gradation accuracy.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably


accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication With The USPTO

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Feggins whose telephone number is 571-272-2254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571-272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


K. Feggins
May 28, 2004